#### **NISC NEWSLETTER**

U.S. Department of the Interior • Office of the Secretary (OS/SIO/NISC) • 1849 C Street, N.W • Washington, DC 20240 Phone: (202) 513-7243 • Fax: (202) 371-1751 • www.invasivespecies.gov

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### News and Announcements **FICMNEW AWARD**

This year at National Invasive Species Awareness Week, in honor of Mr. Jerry Asher, FICMNEW established the "Jerry Asher National Invasive Plant Management Memorial Award", to be given annually to someone who exhibits the kind of spirit, passion, and knowledge that Jerry exemplified throughout his career. From the earliest days of FICMNEW, Jerry was a valued bile with new Forest Serconsultant and promoter of interagency collaboration and cooperation. Jerry's knowledge of the operational needs of field practioners was transmitted upwardly into the policy centers of government at all levels. His life achievements led to the establishment and implementation of sound invasive plant management March 22, 2012: Walking along a policy and guidance which will last for decades to come.

On this inaugural year of the award, FICMNEW has chosen to present the award it to another great leader in this field. Dr. Randy Westbrooks U.S. Geological Survey, for his significant contributions to the advancement of invasive plant management in the United States.

### Coast Guard issues standard for living organisms in ships' discharged ballast water

United States Coast Guard News

March 16, 2012: WASHINGTON - The U.S. Coast Guard announced Friday the final rule for standards for living organisms in ships' ballast water discharged into waters of the United States is scheduled for publication March 23 in the Federal Register.

A public inspection copy of the final rule is available online. Go to http://www.archives.gov/federal-register/public-inspection select the option "View the Special Filing Document List."

The Coast Guard is amending its regulations on ballast water management by establishing a standard for the allowable concentration of living organisms in ballast water discharged from ships in waters of the United States. To read entire article, go to: http://www.uscgnews.com/go/doc/786/1340435/Coast-Guardissues-standard-for-living-organisms-in-ships-discharged-ballastwater

#### NPS Lionfish Management Plan Released:

The National Park Service (NPS) has developed a service wide response plan for the lionfish invasion in the South Atlantic, Gulf makes its way northward through illegal truck shipments. of Mexico and US Virgin Islands national parks. The plan pro-

vides service-wide guidance on lionfish with the goal of protecting the integrity of park resources and values, and address visitor safety. Information gained from this plan will contribute to the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force-sponsored Lionfish Plan. To

read the plan, please go to: http:// <u>nature.nps.gov/water/</u> Special points of interest: marineinvasives/lionfish.cfm

## Control effort goes movice app

April Reese, E&E reporter

forest trail somewhere in the South, you spot an unfamiliar plant. Is it native or invasive? Now, there's an app for that.

The free iPhone/iPad app, developed under a partnership between the Forest Service and the University of Georgia's Center for Inva-

Forest Service officials said.

sive Species and Ecosystem Health, allows users to quickly look up a plant to see whether it is invasive. The agency hopes the new digital guide will encourage more people to get involved in the effort to stem the spread of foreign invaders in Southern ecosystems.

"Ultimately, we hope this app will give people a new tool to go out and identify invasive plants and map their occurrence," said James Miller, a Southern Research Station research ecologist who coauthored the field guide the application is based on. "Effective control relies on understanding of species and how they spread across the landscape. Those are important first steps in stopping and con-

- FICMNEW AWARD
- FINAL RULE—USCG BALLAST WATER
- NPS LIONFISH MANAGEMENT **PLAN**

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#### In The News

taining the invasions of harmful nonnative plants." To read entire article, go to: http://www.eenews.net/Greenwire/2012/03/22/9

# Greenwire

March 27, 2012: As the debate over how to handle Asian carp spreading in the Great Lakes continues, the species continues to Last month, Canadian border patrol agents confiscated 14,000 Growing coyote presence could rid NYC pounds of live Asian carp in what was the third bust in less than two months at the border and the fifth in the past year. In January, inspectors nabbed a combined 9,400 pounds of live carp on two separate busts.

southern United States to be sold in Toronto, where the fish is man territory may not be a bad thing. popular in Asian cuisine. To read entire article, go to: http:// www.eenews.net/Greenwire/2012/03/27/11

#### Hotter summers could eventually spell doom for brook trout

Lacey Johnson, E&E reporter

rely on cold water for survival. Now, research conducted in an the migratory patterns of coyotes in New York. To read enupstate New York lake is revealing just how dangerous warmer tire waters might be for a common species of trout.

Brook trout typically lay their eggs in late summer or fall, but Stink bugs migrate south, threatening nesting data gathered from a lake in the Adirondack Mountains reveal that hotter summers are delaying those spawning times -and sometimes trout are too hot to bother laying eggs at all.

"It suggests that having warm, hot summers is not going to be good for brook trout," said Cliff Kraft, a professor of natural resources at Cornell University and co-author of the new study, published in Global Change Biology this month. He says hotter weather forces the cold-water fish to "basically shut down" and wait for the temperature to drop, so they can continue feeding, growing and reproducing. To read entire article, go to: http:// www.eenews.net/climatewire/2012/03/27/6

#### First-ever rule for cleansing ballast water criticized by greens

Paul Quinlan, E&E reporter

March 23, 2012: The first-ever national regulation requiring ships to cleanse their ballast water of nonnative critters such as the zebra and guagga mussels, whose invasion of the Great Lakes caused billions of dollars in damage, was finalized today.

A decade in the works, the rule published by the U.S. Coast Guard adopts standards set by the International Maritime Organization and embraced by industry but that environmental groups say are too weak to protect water bodies from future species invasions.

It comes as U.S. EPA continues to review its own set of standards, released in draft form and expected to be finalized later this year. To read entire article, go to: <a href="http://www.eenews.net/">http://www.eenews.net/</a> Greenwire/2012/03/23/6

# of pests, scientists say

Greenwire

March 22, 2012: As coyotes become an increasing pres-In each case, the carp were brought north from fish farms in the ence in New York City, researchers say having them in hu-

> The animals prey on pests that New Yorkers hate: rodents. The coyotes may also be competing with other animals like raccoons for food resources, which may lessen the city's overpopulation of raccoons.

"What happens is that when there's a top predator, it will help control other levels of the food chain," said ecologist March 27, 2012; Climate change is a known threat to fish that Mark Weckel, who is working with other scientists to track article, go to: http://www.eenews.net/ Greenwire/2012/03/22/12

# crops

Greenwire

March 19, 2012: The stink bug population in the mid-Atlantic region has shrunk, but the invasive species has made its way south, potentially threatening crops from South Carolina to Florida.

In the mid-Atlantic region, brown marmorated stink bugs caused an estimated \$37 million in damage in apple crops alone in 2010. Maryland farmers said the insects ruined a third of peach crops and half of raspberry crops last year.

And as the bugs head south, they could be capable of doing more damage, especially to Florida's crops. To read entire article, go to: http://www.eenews.net/ Greenwire/2012/03/19/9

#### Bats in Maine's Acadia National Park succumb to deadly fungus

Phil Taylor, E&E reporter

March 20, 2012: A deadly fungus that has killed several million bats in more than a dozen Eastern states has spread to coastal Maine, where it has infected bats in Acadia National Park, federal scientists announced today.

The discovery of infected bats in the 47,000-acre park marks the latest spread of white-nose syndrome (WNS), which was discovered five years ago in upstate New York and has swiftly moved as far south as Alabama and as far north as Canada.

suspect (Land Letter, March 1). But researchers still don't know read the entire article, go to: what cues the process. To read entire article, go to: <a href="http://">http://</a> Greenwire/2012/03/13/8 www.eenews.net/eenewspm/2012/03/20/11

### Brutal bat fungus spreads south

Greenwire

March 15, 2012: A ruthless disease that targets bats has spread to Alabama, home to millions of endangered gray bats.

White-nose syndrome has killed nearly 7 million bats in 12 states and four Canadian provinces, according to the U.S. Fish and An international research team vacuumed the clothes, footwear, Wildlife Service.

To read entire article, go to: destructans. www.eenews.net/Greenwire/2012/03/15/15

#### Start spreading the news -- frog species discovered in NYC

Colin Sullivan, E&E reporter

March 15, 2012: NEW YORK -- Scientists have discovered a new frog species within a cab ride of downtown Manhattan.

Researchers at four universities investigating the "weird croak" of what they thought was an already-identified leopard frog say they House GOP proposes 10% reduction in fedfound instead an entirely new species.

The discovery on Staten Island and in metropolitan New Jersey and New York surprised scientists at the University of California. Los Angeles; Rutgers University; the University of California, Davis; and the University of Alabama. To read the entire article, go to: <a href="http://www.eenews.net/Greenwire/2012/03/15/12">http://www.eenews.net/Greenwire/2012/03/15/12</a>

#### No rats in sight on atoll, but FWS not ready to declare victory

Laura Petersen, E&E reporter

March 13, 2012: An effort to eradicate rats on a remote Pacific atoll appears to be succeeding, federal biologists say.

Targeting hundreds of thousands of rats that had swarmed Palmyra Atoll, rat hunters armed with slingshots and rodenticide swooped in by helicopter last June in a \$2.7 million project aimed the Nature Conservancy and Island Conservation (Land Letter, the May 5, 2011).

Since June, there has been "absolutely no sign of living rodents," said Beth Flint, the FWS biologist for Palmyra Atoll, which is near

The deadly fungus grows on the muzzles of infected bats and the equator about 1,000 miles from Hawaii. The island's only causes them to awake prematurely from hibernation, leading to human occupants are caretakers of the national wildlife refuge, excess energy use, starvation or freezing to death, scientists Nature Conservancy staff and occasional visiting scientists. To http://www.eenews.net/

#### Stowaway seeds pose threat to Antarctica

Laura Petersen, E&E reporter

March 5, 2012: Seeds are hitching a ride to Antarctica on the clothing and gear of tourists and scientists, increasing the risk of invasive plants taking root in the ice-free areas of one of the relatively pristine environments left on Earth.

walking poles, day packs and camera bags of more than 850 visitors to the continent in 2007 and 2008. They collected more The disease is connected to a type of fungus called Geomyces than 2.680 seeds from tourists, scientists, support personnel and <u>http://</u> ship crews, or an average of 9.5 per seed-bearing person.

> Scientists and their support personnel were found to carry more potential invaders than tourists, according to the study published today in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. To read the entire article, go to: http://www.eenews.net/ eenewspm/2012/03/05/3

### **Budget**

# eral workforce, extending pay freeze

Emily Yehle, E&E reporter

March 20, 2012: Federal employees would pay almost eight times more toward their retirement plan -- and suffer a 10 percent reduction to their numbers -- under the fiscal 2013 budget framework House Republicans unveiled today.

Released by Budget Chairman Paul Ryan (R-Wis.), the spending blueprint would knock almost \$20 billion from the \$1.047 trillion cap on discretionary spending that congressional leaders agreed to in the August deal to raise the federal debt limit (Greenwire, March 20). Cuts to the federal workforce would account for \$368 billion in estimated savings.

The cuts mirror those Ryan proposed in his budget last year. Specifically, it would reduce the federal workforce by 10 percent through attrition, extend the current pay freeze through 2015 and at killing every invasive rodent. Joining FWS in the rat raid were require employees to pay half the cost of their pensions. To read entire article. go to: http://www.eenews.net/ eenewspm/2012/03/20/7

### **Job Opportunities**

**ISDA** has openings for Invasive Species Technicians and a Supervisor position: There are two separate postings for these positions. Click on the link below based upon the work location. Both job postings will be open until April 23<sup>rd</sup> with a projected start date of April 30<sup>th</sup>. If you have any questions about this position, please give HR a call at 208-332-8520.

Click Here for the Boise opening

Click Here for the Panhandle opening

#### Conferences

April 24—27, 2012: Weeds Across Borders (WAB) 2012—"Meeting the Challenges of the Future" is being held in Cancun, Mexico. WAB is an international conference covering the interests of professionals and organizations involved in weed management and regulation. For more information, please go to: <a href="http://www.weedcenter.org/wab/2012/index.html">http://www.weedcenter.org/wab/2012/index.html</a> or send an email to: <a href="http://weedsacrossborders2012@gmail.com">weedsacrossborders2012@gmail.com</a>

Preventing the Introduction and Spread of Invasive Weeds Workshop 2012: The U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, California Department of Food and Agriculture, UC Cooperative Extension and the California Invasive Plant Council is hosting and sponsoring this workshop in California during the following dates, times and locations:

Sonora: Monday, April 9, 2012; 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Truckee: Wednesday, May 2, 2012; 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Participants will gain an understanding of how to incorporate prevention, best management practices and guidelines into work in the construction, aggregate production and maintenance fields. Valuable resource and materials, available at the workshop will assist participants in environmental stewardship planning and saving money by stopping invasive weeds <u>before</u> they move into a new area.

May 1-2, 2012: 2012 AGRICULTURE STAKEHOLDER CONFERENCE: PESTS, PATHWAYS, AND PARTNERSHIPS is being held at the APHIS Headquarters in Riverdale, MD. Conference announcements, including registration information, will be sent out through the Stakeholder Registry in mid February. Space is limited so early registration is recommended. For more information please contact Melonie Torillo at (301) 851-2269 (Melonie.J.Torillo@aphis.usda.gov)

May 2-3, 2012: Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force (ANSTF) Meeting is being held at the O'Callaghan Annapolis Hotel in Annapolis, MD. A block of rooms has been reserved

under ANS TASK FORCE for \$116.00 plus tax/night. The block will be released on April 1, 2012. Make your reservations by calling O'Callaghan's at (410) 263-7700/toll free: (866) 782-9624.

May 21-25, 2012: Invasive Species Advisory Committee (ISAC) Meeting is being held at the Benson Hotel in Portland, OR. Further information will be made available at: <a href="http://invasivespecies.gov/">http://invasivespecies.gov/</a>

**May 27-31, 2012:** The Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (OFAH) and its partners are hosting Canada's first National Fish and Wildlife Conservation Congress at the Westin Ottawa. *Please go to:* <a href="http://www.nfwcc.com/">http://www.nfwcc.com/</a> for more information.

June 19—21, 2012: The Fifth Sudden Oak Death (SOD) Science Symposium (Call for Papers) is being held at the Sheraton Sonoma County in Petaluma, CA. It will provide a scientific update on the state of our knowledge about Phytophthora ramorum and SOD.

August 20—22, 2012: International Terrestrial Invasive Plant Species Conference—TIPS 2012— "Understanding Plant Invasions in a Changing World" will take place at the Delta Waterfront Hotel in Sault Ste. Marie, Canada.

October 8-11, 2012: 18th Australasian Weeds Conference 2012 is being held at The Sebel and Citigate Albert Park, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia. Poster abstract submission has been extended until March 30, 2012. Please go to: <a href="http://www.18awc.com/">http://www.18awc.com/</a> for more information.

#### **Miscellaneous**

Bureau of Reclamation Equipment Inspection and Cleaning Manual (addresses quagga/zebra mussels): See <a href="http://www.usbr.gov/mussels/">http://www.usbr.gov/mussels/</a>, link to manual (13 MB) is on right side under "Documents".

Archived Grassroots session on Cooperative Invasive Species Management Areas (CISMAs), Cooperative Weed Management Areas (CWMAs) and Partnerships for Regional Invasive Species Management PRISMs): Many of you were able to participate "live" during the webcast held in Washington D.C. during National Invasive Species Awareness Week (NISAW). The recording of the webcast has been posted at <a href="http://www.nisaw.org/webcast2012.html">http://www.nisaw.org/webcast2012.html</a>